

6 PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

INTRODUCTION

Parks, recreation and open space are essential to a high quality of life in a community. Since incorporation in 1959, the City of Lynnwood has acquired and developed many park and open space lands and established an excellent recreation program. As Lynnwood and the Puget Sound region grow and change, it is vital to be prepared to accommodate new growth and diversity while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life we have grown to enjoy.

This element of the Comprehensive Plan is based on the Council-adopted 2016 -2025 Parks, Arts, Recreation & Conservation (PARC) Plan (Resolution 2016-04). The PARC Plan is a ten-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Lynnwood. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan reinforces the City's vision for its park and recreation system, provides an update to service standards for parks and trails and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Lynnwood. This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Lynnwood residents. The Plan inventoried and evaluated existing park and recreation areas, assessed the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan is optional under the Growth Management Act (GMA), but the City is choosing to incorporate this element into the Plan because it is a vital part of a high quality community.

The GMA goals pertaining to the parks, recreation and open space element are:

Open Space and Recreation: Encourage the retention of open space, development of recreational opportunities, conserve wildlife habitat and increase access to natural resource lands.

Environment: Protect the environment and the state's high quality of life.

Regional Planning: Lynnwood's Comprehensive Plan is consistent with VISION 2040's policies related to parks, recreation, and open space. The Plan calls for preservation, acquisition, and development of parks, recreation, and open space facilities, including multi-modal, non-motorized facilities, consistent with the regional vision.

County-Wide Planning Policies: Countywide planning policies do not specifically address neighborhood or community parks and recreation issues within cities or their urban growth areas. It is, however, the County's policy to provide greenbelts and open space to provide separation from adjacent urban areas, and regional park facilities within urban growth areas. Snohomish County's Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan states that "parks are necessary for development." This policy provides the opportunity for cities to work with the County to provide park land within urban growth areas.

City Vision: The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts (PRCA) Department supports the City’s Vision to invest in preserving and expanding parks, recreation, and community programs, by developing a network of pedestrian and bike trails, encouraging partnerships and participation in community events, creating civic pride, promoting healthy lifestyles, providing senior services, and promoting parks and cultural arts for economic growth.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The following is a summary of issues relating to parks, recreation and open space in the City. It is the intent of the Comprehensive Plan to propose solutions to these issues through the implementation of programs and policies in this element.

Obesity Epidemic

The nation is facing an obesity epidemic that has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a call to action to the parks and recreation profession. His call is to “reclaim the culture of physical activity” in our country. Scientific research now indicates that walking a minimum of 22 minutes a day can greatly decrease one’s chances of acquiring diabetes or heart disease. These two health issues cause 70% of deaths in the U.S. and account for over \$1 trillion in costs. This call to action is now re-emphasizing the preventative side of health where the costs are much lower. However, in Lynnwood, many barriers still exist which prevent residents from reaching these goals. The PARC Plan and the Healthy Communities Action Plan make specific recommendations on how the City can eliminate barriers within the City’s infrastructure and reinforce the need to have safe and accessible places to walk and ride a bicycle and improve access to healthy, affordable foods through policy change and program opportunities.

Creating A Sense of Community

Lynnwood residents consistently have voiced their concern and dissatisfaction about the lack of gathering places and spaces to celebrate the City’s heritage, arts and diversity. A solution lies in the creation of Town Square Park in the proposed City Center. This park would serve as Lynnwood’s “living room” and be the prime location for a farmer’s market and other celebration activities and events. The proposed park also could serve as an economic catalyst for other development.

Social Equity

Much has been written lately about this subject. Maintaining social equity across programs and facilities can be difficult enough in communities with stable demographics. In Lynnwood, the City is experiencing dramatic shifts in its population and diversity, and the challenge will be to keep up. The PRCA Department must continue to find ways to provide complete and safe access to its parks and facilities and strive to be a facilitator for ensuring that all of the City’s residents have equal access to its resources, services and programs.

Increased Capitalization of a Creative Class

Lynnwood is already in the midst of attracting a creative class. Staff have witnessed a surge of new residents who are moving here because of economic conditions and a more affordable housing market. The proof is found in the applications received to be involved in City boards and commissions. The talent pool of applicants has been impressive, and this likely will not change. The challenge will be for the City to find opportunities for them to be engaged and involved. The PRCA Department should be strategically involved in the interaction with this class and create an environment where their ideas can be processed and supported as much as possible.

Embracing New Technology & Business Practices

The PRCA Department has embraced new technology and embodies many business principles. The Department has increased cost recovery and established solid revenue goals. It will need to continue to improve in this critical area and look for alternatives to create more efficiencies in service delivery and pricing strategies. As the City continues to move forward in a budgeting for outcomes (BFO) process, it will be important for the Department to create data driven analytics and cost/benefit type calculations to justify operational expenditures and capital investments.

Aging Population

The challenges of planning for an aging population have been on the Department's radar for some time. Today's active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for the Department to take a comprehensive approach to its aging population's needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today's older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. The existing physical space on the Civic Campus is too small and needs to be expanded for older adult services.

Park Facilities & Park Conditions

While park settings tend to have a wide range of facilities to encourage physical activity, research has revealed there are specific amenities that promote higher levels of activity. Park users engage in higher levels of physical activity in parks that have playgrounds, sports facilities and trails. The condition of the park and its facilities also determines its use. Park aesthetics and amenities are important to use patterns. Also, perceived safety in how safe one feels in and around parks is a determining factor. In Lynnwood, it has been documented there are some facilities and equipment that require attention. Accessibility to parks and equipment will also merit a stronger focus and consideration. Evidence from research informs staff that park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people's desire to engage in physical activity. It will be necessary to re-evaluate current park designs and maintenance policies. Investing in amenity and access improvements to counteract disparities has the potential to provide long-term solutions in addressing the obesity epidemic. The PRCA Department must play a key role in enabling healthy lifestyles for its citizens by modifying and altering its parks and trail system and recreation programming.

Responding to Homelessness

The homeless and unsheltered population in Lynnwood has grown, and many are taking advantage of the public nature of City parks to establish makeshift shelters in what is intended to be shared community space. Sometimes their belongings or behaviors cause a nuisance and often their presence dissuades park patrons from using or even entering a public park. These situations cause frustration for park employees who work hard to maintain inviting spaces. The Department has been involved in conversations with the City's Homelessness Task Group, and it will continue to be part of a solution-oriented process to help alleviate some of the issues faced in City parks. It will be imperative for the Department to continue to be engaged in finding solutions that will work for this City.

Level of Service Revised

In the 2015 Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan, estimates for level of service targets were calculated with the prediction that Lynnwood would experience a 53% increase in population from 2011 to 2035 within City limits, with additional population growth projected for the MUGA. It also recognizes that the possible MUGA annexation both north and east of its existing borders would trigger the future demand for recreation facilities and conservation. Currently, there are no developed parks or recreation facilities within the MUGA area. Using the adopted park standard of ten acres per 1,000 persons, the

Comprehensive Plan estimated the future need for core parks exceeds 300 acres of new land, plus an additional 210 acres of special use and open space lands. These figures are compounded by the projected demand within the MUGA, which is estimated at an additional 340 acres of park lands by 2025. If the level of service standard were to remain at 10 acres per thousand, the City would face a substantial cost for an aggressive park and open space land acquisition campaign. Taking into consideration that most of Lynnwood's future population growth within the current City boundaries will be concentrated into denser, urbanized neighborhoods provides the City an opportunity to revise the City's level of service with a focus on the distribution and quality of parks and recreational facilities by assessing the City's need by assessing park proximity; park pressure; variety, type and condition of park amenities; trail connectivity; trail network; and leveraging trails for community health and economic health.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City's current parks, recreation and open space inventory amounts to approximately 389 acres and includes park facilities, within the City and in the MUGA, that offer both active and passive recreational opportunities. The park facilities within the City are categorized into the following functional classifications for planning and programming purposes, according to size and function.

Core Parks: Core Parks (mini, neighborhood and community parks) traditionally provide a combination of active and passive uses, including play equipment, picnic areas, athletic fields, and trails. The City currently operates 13 developed parks in the Core Parks category, with 2 park properties undeveloped. With a service level of 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents, the Core Parks category shows a surplus of 5.9 developed acres but a need for 25.3 additional acres to be acquired and developed by 2026 to meet the minimum level of service within the City. Currently Core Parks account for 140.68 acres of park land, or about 36% of the total park, recreation and open space inventory within the City.

Special Use Areas: Five facilities in Lynnwood are classified as "Special Use Areas" based on their current purpose and/or activity - the Municipal Golf Course, the Recreation Center, the Senior Center, Heritage Park, and Veterans Park - for a total of 98.28 acres.

Open Space: The City's Open Space classification includes large natural areas, environmental parks and urban greenbelts. It is the City's policy to preserve natural resources for the conservation of important habitats and for passive recreational use whenever possible. 132.97 acres in and adjacent to Lynnwood are preserved as Parks and Recreation-maintained open space. Scriber Lake Park, Scriber Creek Park and Gold Park are included in this category because they are environmental parks that do not have active recreation elements.

Regional Parks: Regional Parks are not included in the City's parks and open space inventory. Regional parks are typically large facilities that draw from multiple jurisdictions and are often located in unincorporated urban growth areas. These facilities are historically provided at the County level, whereas neighborhood and community parks are provided by cities, both within their boundaries and in their municipal urban growth areas. Meadowdale Beach County Park is an example of a regional park in unincorporated Snohomish County.

DEMAND AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Over the years, the City of Lynnwood has continued to improve and expand its inventory of recreational resources. Residents are well served by a variety of leisure opportunities, but with population growth comes an increasing demand for more parks, open space and recreation facilities in order to attain the adopted Parks Level of Service Standard (LOS).

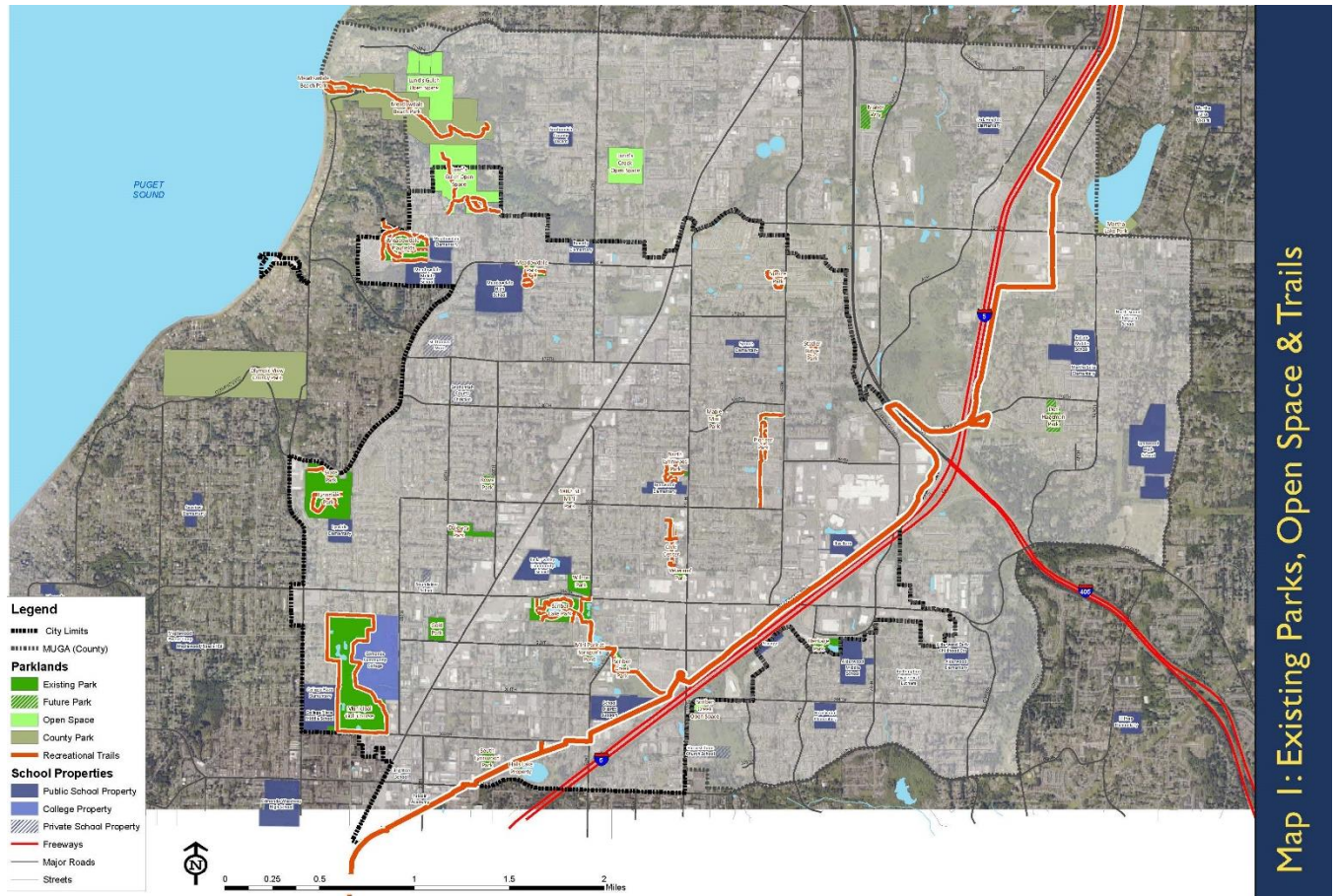


Figure P-1: Existing Parks, Open Space & Trails

An inventory of existing parks, open space and special use facilities is reflected in Table P-1.

Table P-1: Existing Inventory		Acreage	
Classification	In-City	MUGA	
Core Parks			
Mini Parks	6.71		
Neighborhood Parks	37.48	17.00	
Community Parks	96.49		
Subtotal	140.68	17.00	
Open Space	71.91	61.06	
Special Use	98.28		
Total Acreage		388.93	

Level of Service: The demand and need for parks, recreation and open space in Lynnwood has been assessed through analyses of existing conditions, potential park sites, available resources and level of service. Trends in recreation were considered and public input was obtained through surveys and community meetings. The adopted Parks LOS Standard in Lynnwood is being revised to 3.5 acres/1,000 population. This standard is expressed as minimum acres of park, recreation and open space recommended for each 1,000 persons, using the 2015 population of 36,420. The formerly-adopted standard of 10 acres/1,000 persons (5 acres/1,000 of core parks and 5 acres/1,000 for other park land) resulted in a 2015 deficit of more than 49 acres of developed parks and 12 acres of other park land, each growing to a deficit of 93 acres and 56 acres respectively by 2026.

The existing and future demand and need for parks, recreation and open space within the City limits is reflected on Table P-2. The City Center Sub-Area Plan recommends a separate Parks Level of Service Standard within the City Center area.

Table P-2: Level of Service Standard

Metric	Measurement			
Level of Service (LOS) Standard	3.5 acres per 1,000 residents			
2015 Population	36,420 residents			
2026 Population	45,319 residents			
Parkland Acreage (Core Parks - City Only)	Total		Developed	
City-owned & maintained	140.68	acres	133.34	acres
Total	140.68	acres	133.34	acres
Level of Service	2015	2026	2015	2026
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	3.86	3.10	3.66	2.94
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	0.36	(0.40)	0.16	(0.56)
Performance to Standard	110%	89%	105%	84%
Acreage surplus (deficit)	13.21	(17.94)	5.87	(25.28)

Population projections to 2026 were applied to determine future impacts on the City's existing parks system. In addition to maintaining and improving the City's existing facilities, additional park facilities will be needed to meet current and future demands and the adopted LOS within the City, and in the City's urban growth areas.

The Municipal Urban Growth Areas: New residential and commercial development in Lynnwood's MUGA is generating demand for parks, recreation facilities and open space. In future north annexation areas, approximately 93 acres of open space in the Swamp Creek corridor have been preserved jointly by Snohomish County and the City of Lynnwood. The City has also acquired a 9-acre future park site (Manor Way) adjacent to this annexation area, and a 7.7-acre future park site (Doc Hageman Park) east of Interstate 5.77 acres of wetlands has been acquired adjacent to Lund's Gulch for preservation of the headwaters of Lund's Creek. The City successfully acquired an additional 13 acres north of the Lund's Gulch in 2015 bringing the total Lund's Gulch preservation area to over 90 acres.

There are currently no active use park facilities in the City's MUGA, which had an estimated 2015 population of 37,493. As a result, Lynnwood's parks are over-burdened with non-resident use. Applying our current Parks Level of Service Standard to today's MUGA population would require approximately 131 acres of developed parks. To provide park facilities needed by the growing population in the MUGA, the City will continue to seek equitable methods of acquisition and development with Snohomish County and other jurisdictions.

If annexation within the MUGA is approved by the voters, additional parkland and facilities will be needed. The City will develop a comprehensive plan of funding options including park impact fees to assist in this matter. NOTE: Snohomish County already has impact fees within the MUGA area the City proposes to annex.

GOALS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

GOAL 1

Lynnwood's parks, recreation facilities and community programming bring residents together, encourage and amplify healthy lifestyles, and foster community pride, identity and livability.

RECREATION & HEALTHY CHOICES

- Policy P-1.1** Provide a variety of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.
- Policy P-1.2** Provide facilities and programs that promote a balance of recreational opportunities all age groups.
- Policy P-1.3** Maintain and enhance Lynnwood's recreation and senior centers to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play.
- Policy P-1.4** Examine program accessibility, barriers and opportunities to adjust or add services that meet the needs of inequitably served areas or populations.
- Policy P-1.5** Establish a language translation and interpretation plan to enhance promotion of and service delivery to linguistically isolated users and community members.
- Policy P-1.6** Identify opportunities to create public gathering spaces that enable residents of all ages to connect with each other.
- Policy P-1.7** Participate in neighborhood outreach for engagement, improvement, and creating neighborhood identities.
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- Strategy P-1.1** Continue to expand and diversify popular youth and teens programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children.
- Strategy P-1.2** Design programming and services to meet the needs of diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs.
- Strategy P-1.3** Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.
- Strategy P-1.4** Continue to provide and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence, in partnership with community agencies.
- Strategy P-1.5** Evaluate and improve recreational services and programs to meet identified cost recovery goals. Maintain staff development and certifications (e.g. CPR/First Aid, lifeguard certification, playground safety, etc.) to retain high safety standards in facilities and on play equipment.
- Strategy P-1.6** Plan the provision of indoor programming space for youth/teen and senior activities, performing arts and sports.

- Strategy P-1.7** Examine the need for additional community recreation facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes and meeting space.
- Strategy P-1.8** Construct covered walkway for weather protection of Recreation Center swim patrons (CFP 201500102).
- Strategy P-1.9** Expand dedicated youth, teen and senior activity space with remodel and/or expand in an existing City building or off-site lease space (CFP 20150103).
- Strategy P-1.10** Expand Recreation Center (Phase II) to add approximately 75,000 square feet of indoor recreation and leisure space for arts, teens, seniors, gymnasium space and multipurpose space (CFP BP2006023B).

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

- Policy P-1.8** Work with the community and local organizations to foster a greater number and variety of cultural events and support community celebrations.
- Policy P-1.9** Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system.
- Policy P-1.10** Seek opportunities to support and expand heritage facilities.
- Policy P-1.11** Initiate a neighborhood program to support and nurture neighborhood programs and gatherings.
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- Strategy P-1.11** Support the goals and initiatives of the Cultural Arts Plan and the Heritage Plan.
- Strategy P-1.12** Continue to support community events that provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together.
- Strategy P-1.13** Partner with the Edmonds School District, community organizations and other providers to offer both drop-in and structured programs in art, music and dance, as well as educational and environmental activities for youth.
- Strategy P-1.14** Identify appropriate locations within parks and greenways for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.
- Strategy P-1.15** Coordinate the operation of Heritage Park facilities: Visitor Information Center, Heritage Resource Center, Genealogy Research Library, Interurban Car 55, Water Tower, heritage programming and demonstration gardens.
- Strategy P-1.16** Complete phased development of Heritage Park, including renovation of all the historic structures including Water Tower (CFP 1997015C), development of the Interurban Car track and pulley mechanism, play area, trail, demonstration gardens, and development of museum programming in the park (CFP PK1997015D).
- Strategy P-1.17** Initiate new cultural arts improvements and enhancements with the restoration of historic signs (CFP 201500100) for a permanent exhibit and/or the creation of screens for PUD power boxes in the City Center (CFP 201500101).

GOAL 2

Lynnwood's parks and open spaces meet local needs for active and passive recreation, enhance the environmental and visual quality of the community, and healthy living.

PARK DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

- Policy P-2.1** Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental and community impacts.
- Policy P-2.2** Strive to reduce barriers to participation and improve safety to provide universal access to facilities and programs.
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- Strategy P-2.1** Design new parks and provide improvements to existing parks which promote public safety and security, and provide accessibility to all in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Strategy P-2.2** Develop an ADA Transition Plan to more deeply address and prioritize accessibility in parks and facilities.
- Strategy P-2.3** Prioritize park development in areas where service gaps exist (where households are more than ½ mile from a developed park) such as in the Alderwood Transition Area.
- Strategy P-2.4** Prioritize development of existing park sites in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- Strategy P-2.5** Update the City Center Parks Master Plan with community input to create a prioritized implementation plan for the four proposed parks: Village Green, Town Square, Civic Park, and Icon Park.
- Strategy P-2.6** Acquire and develop Town Square Park in City Center Area (CFP PK2005059A).
- Strategy P-2.7** Develop new neighborhood park, Rowe Park, in west Lynnwood, per 2004 master plan (CFP PK2001039B).
- Strategy P-2.8** Continue development and renovation of Scriber Lake Park per the master plans (CFP PK2003046C).
- Strategy P-2.9** Develop the 188th St SW Mini Park (CFP PK1999033A).
- Strategy P-2.10** Implement improvements to Gold Park to add parking, picnic facilities, continue invasive plant removal and trail development (CFP PK1997011C).
- Strategy P-2.11** Develop master plan for future public use of Lund's Gulch in partnership with community stakeholders.
- Strategy P-2.12** Implement specific renovations and improvements at Lynndale Park (phase IV in the central play area, CFP PK1997017B), Wilcox Park (CFP 201500105), South Lynnwood Park (CFP 201300155), Veterans Park and Daleway Park (phase II, CFP PK1997020B).
- Strategy P-2.13** Work collaboratively with Community Development to identify parks and open space sites, related improvements, and implementation strategies for the City Activity Centers.

Strategy P-2.14 Plan for strategic acquisition of properties adjacent to parks or in underserved areas of the city.

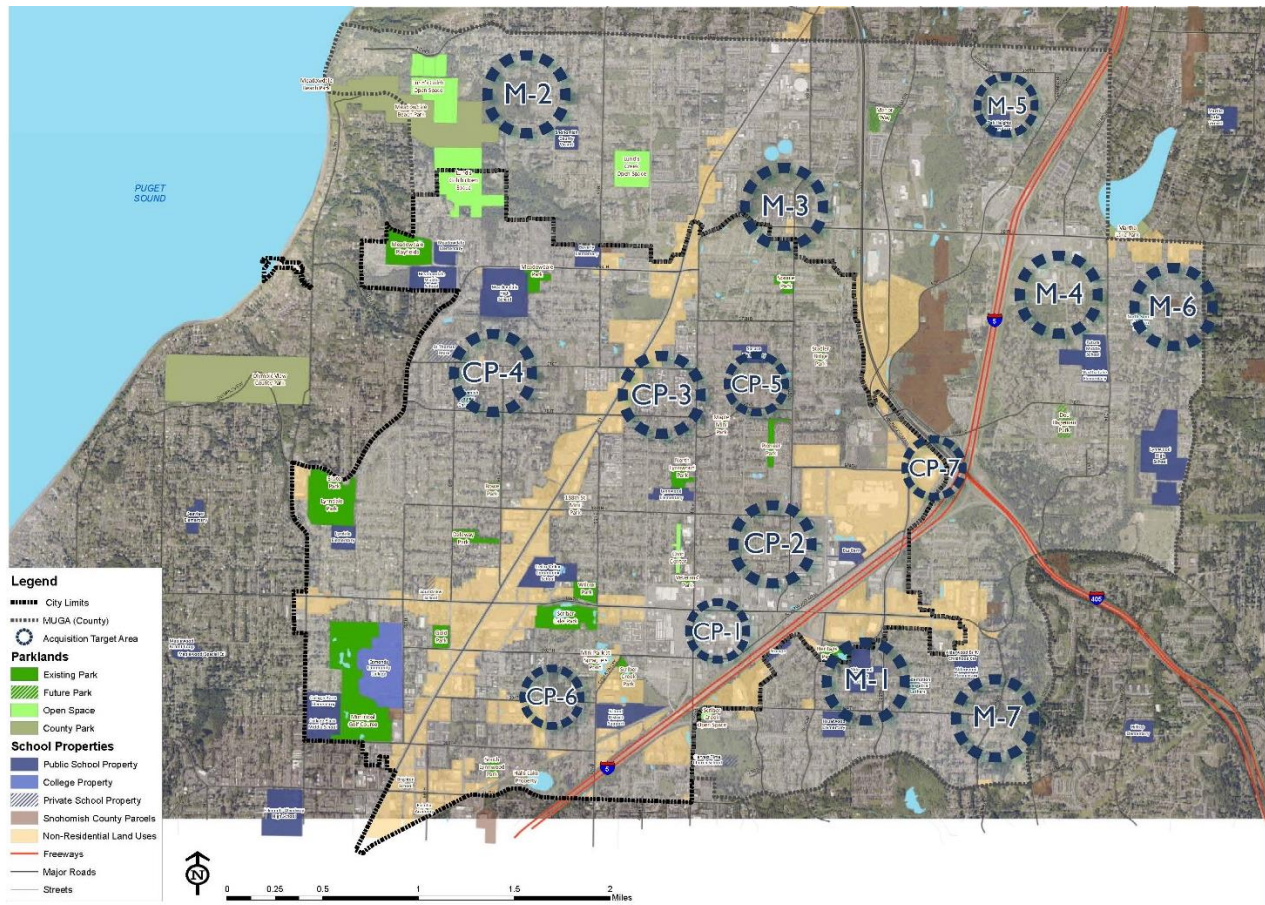


Figure P-2: Proposed Parkland Acquisition Target Areas

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Policy P-2.3 Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. sports facilities, off leash dog areas, skate parks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.

Policy P-2.4 Explore public/private partnership opportunities to develop an environmental education center.



Strategy P-2.15 Encourage the development of specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.

Strategy P-2.16 Provide additional picnic shelters for events such as family gatherings, community events and other meetings.

- Strategy P-2.17** Identify opportunities to create, expand or increase suitable sites for community gardening and/or urban farming.
- Strategy P-2.18** Implement identified improvements to the Golf Course that will sustain the business and make it a viable amenity to the system (CFP 201200151).
- Strategy P-2.19** Develop a master plan for improvements to the Meadowdale Playfields athletic complex, including renovation of the soccer and softball fields (CFP PK2003048A).
- Strategy P-2.20** Develop an off-leash dog area at an acquired site where off-leash use is safe and would have limited environmental impacts (CFP PK2004052B).
- Strategy P-2.21** Explore options with off-leash area advocates for the creation of a non-profit organization to help support and fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of off-leash dog areas within the city.
- Strategy P-2.22** Identify opportunities to create, expand or increase suitable sites for community gardening and urban farming.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREA CONSERVATION

- Policy P-2.5** Provide a system of open space to preserve and protect the area's remaining native forests, wetlands, streams and wildlife habitats, and to provide natural buffers to the built environment based on a regional conservation plan that identifies the strategic lands valued for future conservation.
- Policy P-2.6** Preserve and protect in public ownership areas with significant environmental features such as view corridors, landforms, steep slopes and plant and animal habitats from the impacts of development.
- Policy P-2.7** Conserve significant natural areas to meet habitat protection needs and to provide opportunities for residents to recreate and connect with nature, as appropriate.
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- Strategy P-2.23** Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within natural areas to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- Strategy P-2.24** Encourage conservation easements for open space within urban areas to buffer and enhance the built environment.
- Strategy P-2.25** Support volunteer and interjurisdictional efforts for restoration and preservation of the four major watersheds in South Snohomish County: Scriber Creek, Lund's Gulch, Swamp Creek, and Halls Creek.
- Strategy P-2.26** Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned natural areas through invasive species removal; planting of native species; restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands and other habitat; and improvement of hydrological conditions.
- Strategy P-2.27** Continue and encourage stewardship of open space and natural areas through the Adopt-A-Trail and Park Service programs.
- Strategy P-2.28** Consider the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and public education and outreach.
- Strategy P-2.29** Provide environmental educational opportunities in natural areas with interpretive signage, nature trails and overlooks.

- Strategy P-2.30** Partner with Public Works on the development of a stream corridor management policy to outline protection of environmentally sensitive areas while improving access to natural areas and recreation corridors.
- Strategy P-2.31** Maintain Tree City USA designation with continued review of tree policy and management.
- Strategy P-2.32** Develop a ‘Right Tree, Right Place’ policy to guide tree planting along right-of-ways and under power lines.

GOAL 3

Lynnwood’s PRCA Department coalesces the community and stewards its human social and physical capital and resources to expand recreational opportunities for residents.

ADMINISTRATION

- Policy P-3.1** Provide leadership and sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City’s requirements.
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- Strategy P-3.1** Conduct regular performance audits and analysis to ensure alignment with “Budgeting for Outcomes” budgeting processes.
- Strategy P-3.2** Annually update the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
- Strategy P-3.3** Work with Community Development and Economic Development to revise proposed level of service and park development in the City Center Plan.
- Strategy P-3.4** Evaluate need to provide limited-commission status to park operation staff to improve staff and community safety in parks.
- Strategy P-3.5** Work with Human Resources, Finance and City Council to review personnel policies including employee benefits.

MAINTENANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Policy P-3.2** Actively manage Lynnwood’s park and recreation assets through a regular schedule of maintenance and capital renewal efforts to optimize use, reduce unplanned reactive maintenance and protect public investment.
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- Strategy P-3.6** Maintain a standardized and systematic inventory and assessment of park system infrastructure, including quantity, location, condition and expected useful life.
- Strategy P-3.7** Develop and update an Asset Management Plan for major assets to support improved stewardship, reduce costs and increase maintenance and replacement efficiency.
- Strategy P-3.8** Plan for and finance the backlog of deferred maintenance projects and upgrades for ADA compliance to ensure a safe, secure and accessible park infrastructure (CFP PK2000034A).
- Strategy P-3.9** Encourage and promote volunteer park improvements and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses.

Strategy P-3.10 Explore and evaluate fitness equipment maintenance and replacement options for the Recreation Center.

PARTNERSHIPS

Policy P-3.3 Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation.



Strategy P-3.11 Enhance partnerships with the Edmonds School District and City of Edmonds to maximize public use of recreation facilities on school sites, especially athletic fields and gymnasiums, and to encourage provision of community education programming at schools.

Strategy P-3.12 Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and Snohomish County to provide a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between regional parks and other key destinations.

Strategy P-3.13 Explore partnership opportunities with Verdant Health Commission, local hospitals and businesses to develop, fund and promote park and recreation activities, programs and amenities.

Strategy P-3.14 Explore partnership opportunities with the Snohomish Sports Commission to attract sporting events and tournaments.

FUNDING

Policy P-3.4 Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Lynnwood's park and recreation system.



Strategy P-3.15 Conduct a park impact fee study for the City and its MUGA to help finance park and trail capital needs related to population growth.

Strategy P-3.16 Consider the potential benefits of voter-approved initiatives, such as bonds and levies, to fund and manage certain park and recreation program areas.

Strategy P-3.17 Utilize strategic capital investments in parks, trails, open spaces, recreation and art to encourage and support economic development and revitalization.

Strategy P-3.18 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, including a levy lid lift, for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.

Strategy P-3.19 Update admission fees, rental fees, and discounts on a periodic basis to reflect market rates.

GOAL 4

Lynnwood provides a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves current and future needs.

PARK & OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

- Policy P-4.1** Acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City's current and future population based on adopted service levels (CFP PK1998031A).
- Policy P-4.2** Plan for the location of parks in the proximity of underserved neighborhood and/or high-density developments.
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- Strategy P-4.1** Provide core parks to a service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 persons.
- Strategy P-4.2** Provide equitable park distribution and prioritize park acquisition in under-served areas where households are more than ½ mile from a developed park.
- Strategy P-4.3** Prioritize park acquisition in areas of the City facing population growth, and residential and commercial development.
- Strategy P-4.4** Pursue acquisition of park-adjacent parcels to provide for needed parking expansion or valuable natural area/open space conservation.
- Strategy P-4.5** Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use.
- Strategy P-4.6** Proactively seek parklands identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve future residents. Evaluate acquisition opportunities based on criteria such as improvement to existing level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- Strategy P-4.7** Continue acquisition of open space properties in the Swamp Creek and Scriber Creek watersheds.
- Strategy P-4.8** Identify, acquire and preserve historically significant properties.

MUGA PLANNING

- Policy P-4.3** Pursue cooperative planning efforts with Snohomish County to fund acquisition of open space for conservation and future park development in the MUGA to meet the recreational needs of Lynnwood's annexation areas.
- Policy P-4.4** Pursue an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County to facilitate joint management of park impact fees collected within the MUGA to facilitate timely expenditure of funds and strategic acquisitions.
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- Strategy P-4.9** Establish or improve urban public services in newly annexed areas, as funds are available, to meet established levels of service.
- Strategy P-4.10** Acquire the Alderwood Middle School for future conversion to park use (CFP 201500108).

- Strategy P-4.11** Acquire identified conservation lands along Scriber Creek, Swamp Creek and Lund's Gulch.
- Strategy P-4.12** Acquire additional sites for future MUGA parks as noted in this Plan.
- Strategy P-4.13** Partner with Snohomish County to provide frontage and parking improvements to Doc Hageman Park.
- Strategy P-4.14** Develop Doc Hageman Park (phase I and II) as a potential annexation project (CFP PK2002041C).
- Strategy P-4.15** Develop Manor Way Park as a potential annexation project (CFP PK1997002B).
- Strategy P-4.16** Acquire a site for the future parks operations and maintenance satellite location as a centrally-located equipment storage facility in the MUGA.
- Strategy P-4.17** Conduct a feasibility study for an environmental education center public/private partnership located in Lund's Gulch.
- Strategy P-4.18** Renew and maintain conversations with Snohomish County staff regarding the collection and management of MUGA park impact fees and joint planning for targeted acquisitions.

GOAL 5

Lynnwood's PRCA Department fosters and expands the physical and social connections linking the City together and bridging to its neighbors.

TRAILS & LINKAGES

- Policy P-5.1** Develop a network of shared-use recreational, pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, neighborhoods, public amenities and regional trail corridors.
- Policy P-5.2** Design and construct trails to serve a variety of users at varying skill levels.
- Policy P-5.3** Support other City departments in the implementation of the Multi-Choice Transportation System Plan.
- Policy P-5.4** Develop additional nonmotorized trails outside of parks to meet a targeted walkability score and promote Lynnwood as a "walkable city."
- □ □
- Strategy P-5.1** Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- Strategy P-5.2** Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- Strategy P-5.3** Implement trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- Strategy P-5.4** Master plan and implement Interurban Trail corridor upgrades and improvements; support interjurisdictional efforts to provide consistent and aesthetic improvements along the length of the Interurban Trail (CFP PK1998025C).

- Strategy P-5.5** Partner with Public Works on the implementation of the Bike2Health Project and for an assessment of sidewalk and crosswalk needs for schools (safe-routes-to-schools).
- Strategy P-5.6** Partner with utilities, agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for planned trail connections such as Tunnel Creek Trail at Lynnwood Place (CFP 201500106).
- Strategy P-5.7** Conduct a master plan and alignment study for the Center to Sound Trail which will link City Center, Scriber Lake and Lund's Gulch. Design and construct the northward extension of the Scriber Creek Trail from Scriber Lake Park north to the Meadowdale area and Lund's Gulch (CFP PK1998025C).
- Strategy P-5.8** Coordinate with Snohomish County, Brackett's Landing Foundation and volunteers on the development of the South Lund's Gulch Trail.
- Strategy P-5.9** Coordinate with Snohomish County for the development of recreational trails within the MUGA to enhance linkages between future parks and the Interurban Trail.
- Strategy P-5.10** Work with Sound Transit to provide transit service to trailheads, parks, and recreation facilities such as redevelopment of the Scriber Creek Trail (CFP 201500107).

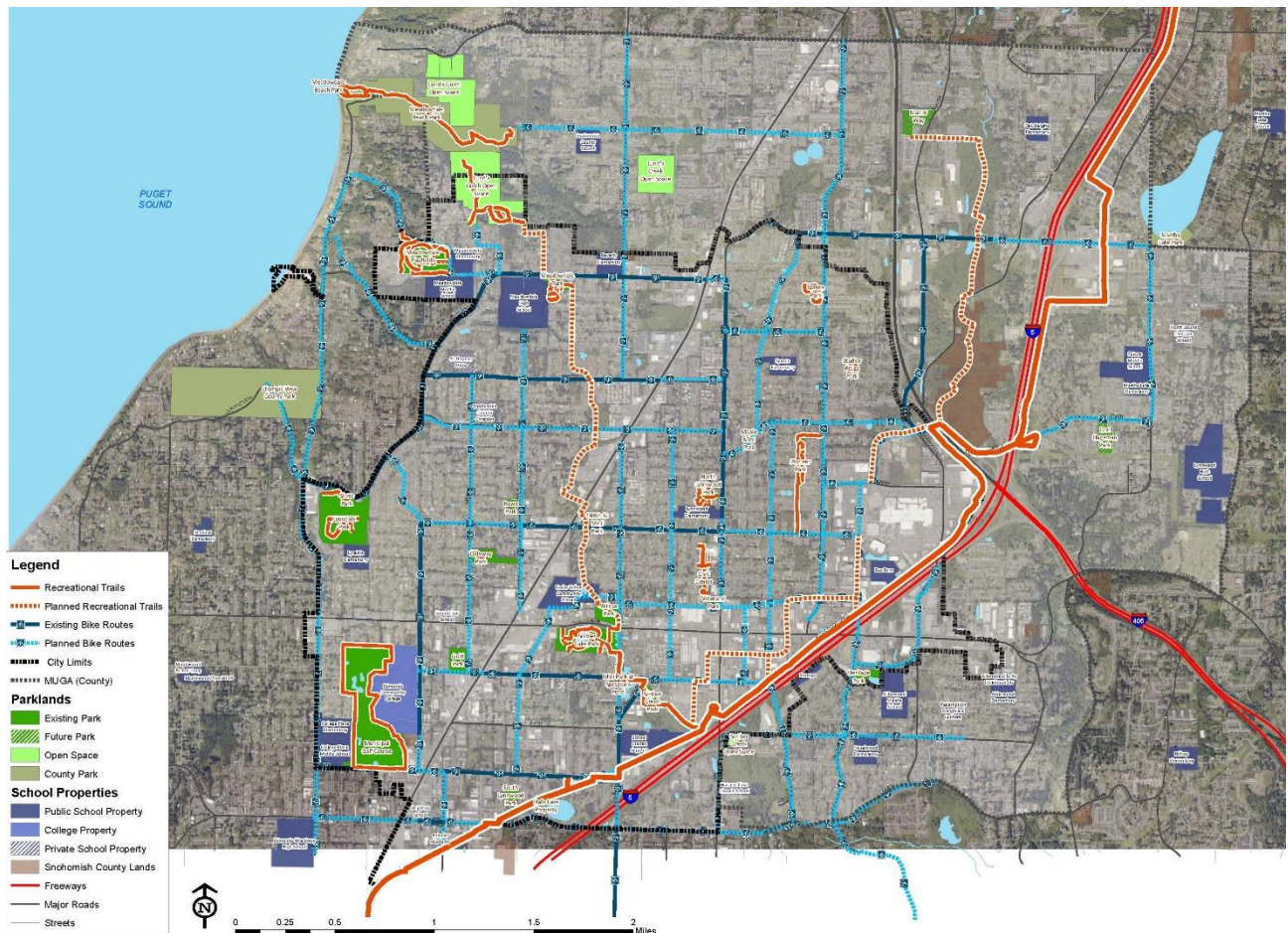


Figure P-3: Proposed Recreation Trails & Bike Routes

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Policy P-5.5** Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreation.
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- Strategy P-5.11** Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning, park site facility design and recreation program development. Use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- Strategy P-5.12** Employ innovative strategies to improve community involvement in park and recreation planning efforts.
- Strategy P-5.13** Identify under-represented segments of the community and work to improve their capacity to participate in park planning and decision-making.
- Strategy P-5.14** Pursue opportunities to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to improve, maintain and monitor local parks, natural areas and trails.
- Strategy P-5.15** Provide clear maps of City parks, trails and recreation facilities online, in the parks and recreation catalog, at trailheads and public counters, and in newspaper articles or notices.
- Strategy P-5.16** Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every six years.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- Policy P-5.6** Coordinate parks, open space and facility planning and development with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies for mutually-beneficial partnerships.
- □ □
- Strategy P-5.17** Work with other agencies or service providers to provide adequate recreational programs, facilities and special events for community use.
- Strategy P-5.18** Partner with Edmonds School District, the City of Edmonds and other potential funding partners to improve Meadowdale Playfields (CFP PK2003048A).
- Strategy P-5.19** Pursue cooperative planning efforts with Snohomish County to provide parks and open space in future annexation areas.
- Strategy P-5.20** Work with Edmonds Community College and support volunteer efforts for improvements to Gold Park.
- Strategy P-5.21** Consider sponsorship opportunities for entrepreneurs, both nonprofit and for-profit, to enrich the park experience and implement innovative approaches to revenue generation for parks and recreation facilities, events and programs.
- Strategy P-5.22** Continue partnership development with Verdant Health Commission to provide public health and safety programs which meet community needs.
- Strategy P-5.23** Continue to explore additional facility partnerships and/or joint-use operating agreements with Edmonds School District for use of sports fields and/or indoor gymnasiums.

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